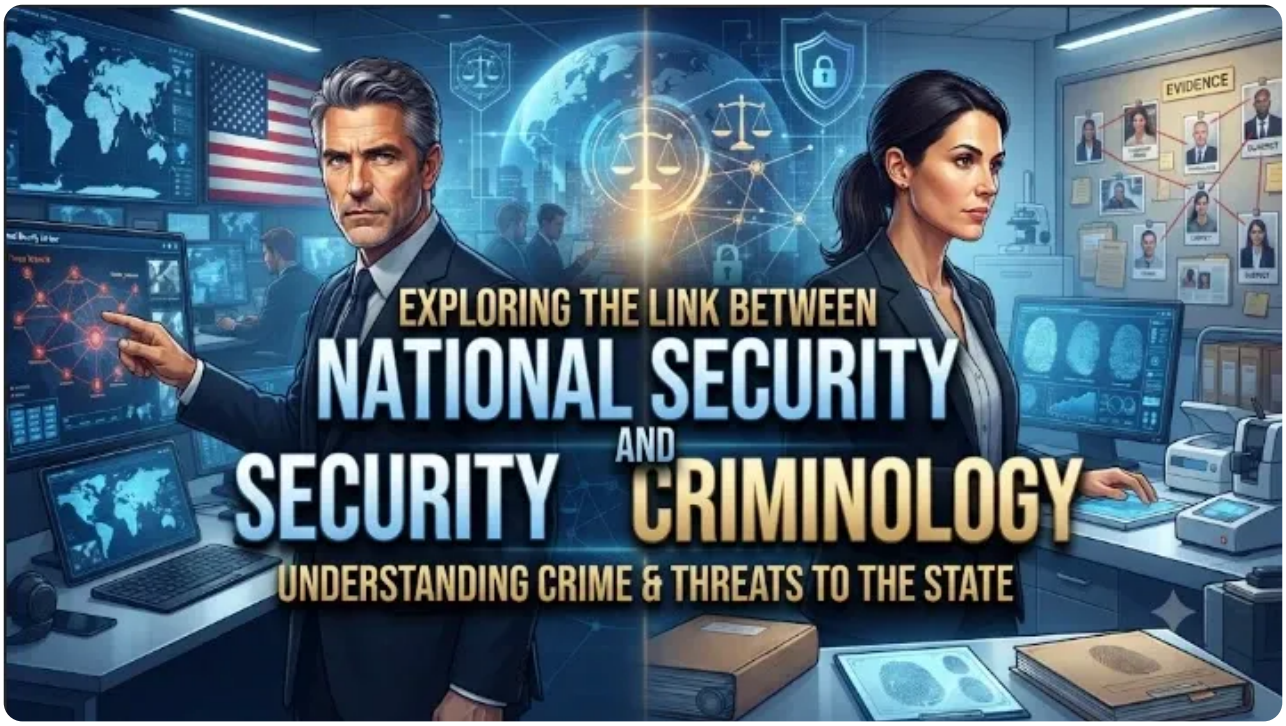
Exploring the Link Between National Security and Criminology

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Abstract

This article explains the close relationship between criminology and national security, showing how the study of crime can help governments understand and prevent modern security threats. National security is presented as broader than military defense, now encompassing terrorism, organized crime, cybercrime, trafficking, extremism, and other cross-border risks. Criminology contributes by examining why individuals and groups engage in criminal behavior, how criminal networks operate, and which social, political, economic, and psychological conditions increase vulnerability to crime. The article discusses criminological theories as tools for interpreting terrorism, radicalization, organized crime, and cyber offending. It also highlights the preventive value of addressing poverty, inequality, weak governance, marginalization, and limited opportunities before these conditions develop into larger security problems. For Bangladesh, criminologists are described as useful partners for law enforcement, policymakers, intelligence agencies, and international organizations. The central argument is that integrating criminological research with national security planning can produce more evidence-based, preventive, humane, and sustainable responses to complex threats.



The areas of national security and criminology may appear unrelated to each other at first sight. The main issue that national security deals with is how to keep the borders of a state, people, and institutions safe against internal and external threats. Criminology, in its turn, is the study of crime, criminal behavior, the criminal justice system and law enforcement. Nevertheless, closer analysis shows that there exists a profound and harsh relationship between the two regions. To tackle current issues of security challenges like terrorism, organized crime, cybercrime, and other threats, it is necessary to understand the connection between national security and criminology.

In the modern fast changing world where threats to the national security are getting more and more complicated, criminology gives the tools in terms of analysis to comprehend the challenges, prevent them and find the solution. The national security and criminology connection extends beyond the conventional perspective of crime and law enforcement. It entails the analysis of social, political and economic elements that lead to criminal tendencies, and the ways in which the tendencies interplay with national security issues in general. The post shall dwell into the manner in which criminology can impact national security policies, the contribution of criminologists towards security policy, and the way the two disciplines interact to make the world a safer place to live.

The national security is generally understood as maintaining the sovereignty, territorial integrity and the people of a country against foreign aggression, in the form of armed combat, terrorism, and espionage. Nevertheless, the definition of national security has been broadening its list of threats over time to address a broader range of threats, such as organized crime, cyberattacks, human trafficking, and extremism propagation. These novice threats tend to be of criminal nature, that is where the field of criminology comes

on board.

Criminology provides a good point of reference as to the criminality and the underlying causes of crime, and the way criminals work. Through the criminological theories, the national security agencies can gain a better insight into the social and psychological reasons that influence people to commit crime. As an example, the criminologists can examine the motivation behind terrorism and pinpoint trends in the process of radicalizing and recruiting people into extremist groups. This knowledge is essential towards coming up with counter-terrorism measures that are efficient as well as humane.

Additionally, criminology offers an instrument that can be used in analyzing the behavior of criminal groups, their model, and their activities. The inner machinations of organized crime syndicates are known and understood, hence law enforcement and security agencies would find it easy to break down such networks. Another contribution of criminologists to national security is that they examine how crime affects communities and society to influence the policy making process and prevent the occurrence of crime only at the manifestations level but by their root causes.

National security and criminology have been in conflict in one of the most critical areas in the war against terrorism. Terrorism does not only constitute a political problem; it is a criminal act that incorporates the use of violence and illegal acts with the purpose to instill fear as well as fulfill political, religious, or ideological goals. Criminology is important in the study of the causes of terrorism, the types of terrorists, and how they recruit and operate using terrorist groups.

There are several theoretical concepts that criminologists use in the study of terrorism. To illustrate, the strain theory is the viewpoint that people who find themselves in a socially, economically or politically deprived situation can resort to criminal or violence to either cope or gain justice. This theory could be used to understand why certain people are attracted to extremist beliefs and terrorist groups. By knowing such underlying factors the national security agencies are able to attack the root causes of terrorism which may be poverty, lack of education, and political oppression so that these people cannot resort to violence.

Criminology is also used to assist the national security agencies to examine the techniques and activities of the terrorist groups. There are numerous cases in which terrorist organizations use organized criminal networks to finance their activities, traffick arms and hire new recruits. Criminologists by observing how these organizations act and how they are structured can assist the law enforcing bodies to interfere with their operations. As an illustration, criminological studies on the application of social media by terrorist organizations have been used in the counter-terrorism policies to prevent radicalization and restrict online recruitment.

The other aspect in which criminology has direct influence towards national security is in the organized crime. Drug cartels, human trafficking gangs and money laundering networks are examples of organized

criminal gangs that are usually cross-border, and they are a great threat to national security. Such criminal businesses do not only damage people and societies; they destabilize governments and bring down the rule of law.

Criminologists examine how organized crime groups operate and how they are organized, assisting law enforcement and security agencies to know what they do and how to fight them. Indicatively, criminology theories like the routine activities theory are of the opinion that crimes are more apt to take place when incentive offenders meet appropriate targets in the absence of an efficient guardian. Using this theory, the national security agencies are able to establish vulnerabilities within the system and interfere with the criminal activities by using these areas as a point of disruption.

Criminology is also concerned with the social phenomena that enable the organized crime to flourish. In most instances, the organized crime syndicates take advantage of the economic disparities, political corruption, and the poor law enforcement framework. Through the analysis of these dynamics, criminologists will be able to influence the national security policies to deal with the causal factors in organized crime. This could include reinforcing the legal systems, enhancing the economic experiences of the marginalized groups, and facilitating good governance in order to diminish the role of criminal groups.

Cybercrime is now one of the biggest risks to the national security in the contemporary digital world. Cybercriminals have the capabilities of attacking critical infrastructure, looting sensitive information and disabling whole economies. Cyberspace has also become a means through which terrorist groups have recruited, propagated and made plans on how to carry out attacks. Criminology is important in the determination of the motives and conduct of cybercriminals, which the national security organs use to fight against cyber threats.

Criminologists examine how people and groups of people utilize technology to perpetrate crimes, including hacking, identity theft and online fraud. Knowing these behaviors, the agencies involved in the national security can come up with more effective measures to fight cybercrime. As such, criminological studies concerning anonymity and encryption on the internet can guide the police to pursue the activities of cybercriminals in the dark web. Another area of analysis offered by criminologists is the social aspects of online radicalization which can be used to inform counter-extremist programs targeting online platforms of terrorist organizations.

Among the most important contributions of criminology to the national security, one can single out its focus on preventive measures. Whereas the conventional method of law enforcement and security is aiming at the response to the availability of crime, criminology promotes the significance of attending to factors that flow on the expression of criminality prior to its attainment. This preventive strategy is essential in national security, since it assists in countering the threats before they are transformed to significant security issues.

Criminologists collaborate with policymakers and come up with strategies to prevent crime and terrorism by educating them, involving them in community, and reforming the society. Indeed, poverty reduction efforts, better education, and social integration can be used as an example to curtail the chances of individuals engaging in criminal or extremism activities. When criminological research is applied to the national security policy, governments are able to generate more effective, long term solutions to the complicated problems of crime and terrorism.

The role played by criminologists in the national security is to provide research, analysis, and knowledge on criminal behavior and its connection to security threats. Their practice assists in shaping the evidence-based security policy and strategies. Criminologists may help in training the law enforcers and other security personnel in a way that will help them understand the behavior of a criminal, the psychology of an offender and how best they can prevent crime.

Criminologists can be instrumental in aiding the national security efforts in Bangladesh. Given the challenges the country is confronted with in terms of terrorism, organized crime and cyber threats in the country, criminologists can offer information that can be used in formulating policies and strategies to deal with these challenges. With the collaboration of law enforcement agencies, government officials, and international bodies, criminologists may contribute to making sure that the national security strategy of Bangladesh will be grounded in the comprehensive knowledge of criminal behavior.

There is no denying the connection between national security and criminology. Criminology offers the key to the insights of the behaviors which pose a threat to national security such as terrorism, organized crime and cybercrime. Through the criminal theories and studies, the national security agencies will be able to design more efficient tactics on preventing crimes, collecting intelligence, and counterterrorism. Criminology assists in making policies that deal with the factors behind the crime and terrorism so that the security measures are holistic and sustainable.

The cooperation of criminologists and the national security services will be essential as international threats keep on changing. A more thoroughly developed criminalology research that is incorporated into some of the national security strategies in Bangladesh will be needed in ensuring that the country is safeguarded against new threats. Through collaboration, criminologists and the national security professionals can establish a safer and more secure world to everyone.